MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2015/2016

PEN 0065 - ACADEMIC ENGLISH

(All sections / Groups)

17 NOV 2015
9.00 AM – 11.00 AM
(2 HOURS)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **8 printed pages with 3 sections** only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in Sections A, B and C.
3. Write **ALL** your answers in the answer booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the four reading texts, and answer the questions for each text in complete sentences.

Text 1

Persuasion is the art of convincing someone to agree with your point of view. According to the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, there are three basic tools of persuasion: ethos, pathos, and logos.

Ethos is a speaker's way of convincing the audience that he or she is a **credible** source. An audience will consider a speaker credible if he or she seems trustworthy, reliable, and sincere. This can be done in many ways. For example, a speaker can develop ethos by explaining how much experience or education he or she has in the field. After all, you would be more likely to listen to advice about how to take care of your teeth from a dentist than a firefighter. A speaker can also create ethos by convincing the audience that he or she is a good person who has their best interests at heart. If an audience cannot trust you, you will not be able to persuade them.

Pathos is a speaker's way of connecting with an audience's emotions. For example, a charity organization that helps animals might show an audience pictures of injured dogs and cats. These images are intended to fill the viewers with pity. If the audience feels bad for the animals, they will be more likely to donate money.

Logos is the use of facts, information, statistics, or other evidence to make your argument more convincing. An audience will believe you if you have data to back up your claims. For example, a commercial for soap might tell you that laboratory tests have shown that their soap kills all 7,000,000 of the bacteria living on your hands right now. This piece of information might make you more inclined to buy their brand of soap. Presenting this evidence is much more convincing than simply saying "our soap is the best!" Use of logos can also increase a speaker's ethos; the more facts a speaker includes in his or her argument, the more likely you are to think that he or she is educated and trustworthy.

Although ethos, pathos, and logos all have their strengths, they are often most effective when they are used together. Indeed, most speakers use a combination of ethos, pathos, and logos to persuade their audiences. The next time you listen to a speech, watch a commercial, or listen to a friend try to convince you to lend him some money, be on the lookout for these ancient Greek tools of persuasion.

Adapted from Read Theory LLC. (2012). *Persuasion tools.* Retrieved from http://www.englishforeveryone.org/PDFs/8_Tools_of_Persuasion

a) Choose the best option: **(1 mark)**

As used in paragraph 2, what is the best antonym for **credible**?

A. unintelligent
B. boring
C. dishonest
D. amazing

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b) Choose the best option: **(1 mark)**

According to the passage, logos can build ethos because _____.

A. an audience is more likely to trust a speaker who uses evidence to support his argument
B. a speaker can use misleading or false information to make his argument seem more convincing
C. an audience is more easily convinced by facts and information than simple appeals to emotions like pity or fear
D. a speaker who overuses pathos might make an audience too emotional; audiences who are too frightened or too sad are unlikely to be persuaded

c) A speaker who is trying to convince an audience to vote for him might say that he alone can save the country from a terrible war.

Based on the example above,

i) which tool of persuasion is being used? **(1 mark)**
ii) how does the speaker achieve this? Explain. **(2 marks)**

Text 2

The word euthanasia is of Greek origin and literally means "a good death." The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as "the act of killing a person painlessly for reasons of mercy."

In the United States, the seeming acceptance of active forms of euthanasia is alarming, but we face a bigger, more **insidious** threat from passive forms of euthanasia. Every year, in hospitals and nursing homes around the country, there are growing numbers of documented deaths caused by caregivers withholding life-sustaining care, including food and water, from vulnerable patients who cannot speak for themselves.

While it is illegal to kill someone directly, for example with a gun or knife, in many cases the law has put its stamp of approval on causing death by omitting needed care. Furthermore, many states have "living will" laws designed to protect those who withhold treatment, and there have been numerous court rulings which have approved of patients being denied care and even starved and dehydrated to death.

Because such deaths occur quietly within the confines of hospitals and nursing homes, they can be kept hidden from the public. Most euthanasia victims are old or very ill, so their deaths might be attributed to a cause other than the denial of care that really killed them. Moreover, it is often relatives of the patient who request that care be withheld. In one court case, the court held that decisions to withhold life-sustaining care may be made not only by close family members but also by a number of third parties, and that such decisions need not be reviewed by the judicial system if there is no disagreement between decision makers and medical staff. The court went so far as to rule that a nursing home may not refuse to participate in the fatal withdrawal of food and water from an incompetent patient!

"Extraordinary" or "heroic" treatment need not be used when the chance for

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recovery is poor and medical intervention would serve only to prolong the dying process. However, to deny customary and reasonable care or to deliberately starve or dehydrate someone because he or she is very old or very ill should not be permitted. Most of the cases coming before the courts do not involve withholding heroic measures from imminently dying people, but rather they seek approval for denying basic care, such as administration of food and water, to people who are not elderly or terminally ill, but who are permanently incapacitated. These people could be expected to live indefinitely, though in an impaired state, if they were given food and water and minimal treatment.

Adapted from Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. *Starving or Dehydrating People Who Are Not Terminally.* Retrieved from http://www.euthanasia.com/lifedeat.html

a) Based on the passage, define passive euthanasia. **(1 mark)**

b) Choose the best option: **(1 mark)**
As used in paragraph 2, what is the best synonym for **insidious**?
A. apparent
B. seductive
C. treacherous
D. mischievous

c) Choose the best option: **(1 mark)**
In paragraph 2, the author finds starvation and dehydration induced euthanasia is to be "more insidious" because _____.
A. the patient has asked to die with dignity
B. it often involves those who cannot protest
C. euthanasia is legally considered to be a criminal act
D. the public's attitude toward euthanasia is becoming more positive

d) What is the attitude of the writer about the issue? **(1 mark)**

e) State TRUE or FALSE for the following: **(1 mark)**
Using the passage as a guide, it can be inferred that the author would find euthanasia less objectionable in cases in which _____.
i. the patient's death is imminent
ii. the patient refuses to accept nourishment

f) What is the author's purpose of writing this issue? State a phrase or sentence from the text as evidence. **(2 marks)**

Text 3

In its early years, the Guiness Book of Records sets its sight on satisfying man's innate curiosity about the natural world around him. Its two principal fact

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finders, twins Norris and Ross McWhirter, scoured the globe to collect **empirical** facts. It was their task to find and document aspects of life that can be sensed or observed, things that can be quantified or measured. But not just any things. They were only interested in superlatives: the biggest and the best. It was during this period that some of the hallmark Guinness Records were documented, answering such questions as "Which is the brightest star?" and "Which is the biggest spider?"

Once aware of the public's thirst for such knowledge, the book's authors began to branch out to cover increasingly obscure, little-known facts. They started documenting human achievements as well. A forerunner for reality television, the Guinness Book gave people a chance to become famous for accomplishing eccentric, often pointless tasks. Records were set in 1955 for consuming 24 raw eggs in 14 minutes and in 1981 for the fastest solving of a Rubik's Cube (which took a mere 38 seconds). In 1979 a man yodeled non-stop for ten and a quarter hours.

In its latest incarnation, the book has found a new home on the internet. No longer restricted to the confines of physical paper, the Guinness World Records website contains seemingly innumerable facts concerning such topics as the most powerful combustion engine, or the world's longest train. What is striking, however, is that such facts are found on the same page with the record of the heaviest train to be pulled with a beard. While there is no denying that each of these facts has its own, individual allure, *the latter* represents a significant deviation from the education-oriented facts of earlier editions. Perhaps there is useful knowledge to be gleaned regarding the tensile strength of a beard, but this seems to cater to an audience more interested in seeking entertainment than education.

Originating as a simple bar book, the Guinness Book of Records has evolved over decades to provide insight into the full spectrum of modern life. And although one may be more likely now to learn about the widest human mouth than the highest number of casualties in a single battle of the Civil War, the Guinness World Records website offers a telling glimpse into the future of fact-finding and record-recording.

Adapted from Read Theory LLC. (2012). *Guiness Book of Records.* Retrieved from http://www.englishforeveryone.org/PDFs/Level_12_Passage_3.pdf

a) Choose the best option: **(1 mark)**

As used in paragraph 1, which is the best definition for **empirical**?

A. natural
B. recordable
C. excellent or unmatched
D. derived from experience

b) Choose the best option: **(1 mark)**

i. Using the passage as a guide, it can be inferred that the author most likely believes reality television to be _____.

A. idiotic
B. corrupt
C. shallow
D. invaluable

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ii. Why do you think the author feels that way? **(1 mark)**

c) Paragraph 1 and 2 share the same main idea. What is the main idea of these paragraphs? **(1 mark)**

d) What does the word *'the latter'* in line 22 refer to? **(1 mark)**

e) What is the most significant difference between older editions of the Guinness Book of Records and the new Guinness World Records website? **(2 marks)**

Text 4

Food deserts are located in high-poverty areas, such as sparsely populated rural areas or densely populated, low-income urban centers. Food deserts most often develop when major supermarket chains either relocate out of these areas or simply refrain from building stores there in the first place. Major food retailer chains tend to limit their store locations to wealthier urban or suburban neighborhoods. This means that those who live in high-poverty areas often also live miles away from the fresh meats, dairy products, and produce available at supermarkets. Residents of these areas who do not have cars are thus forced to travel long distances on public transportation to do their grocery shopping, or else they are limited to the food available at local convenience stores and gas stations. These types of food retailers often only sell packaged, processed foods that offer little nutritional value.

Furthermore, fast food restaurants are disproportionately concentrated in low-income areas; recent estimates suggest that those living in the poorest areas of a city experience 2.5 times more exposure to fast food restaurants than the wealthiest inhabitants of the city. Because individuals who live in food deserts tend to get their meals from fast food restaurants or convenience stores, they often suffer from a variety of health issues. Research has found that individuals who live in low-income neighborhoods are much more likely to develop problems with obesity, diabetes, and hypertension than those who live in more affluent neighborhoods.

A solution to the problem of food deserts seems obvious: more supermarkets should be built in low-income neighborhoods. The problem with this solution, of course, is that it is difficult to lure supermarket chains into poor areas. Because poorer people have less money to spend on food, supermarket chains do not consider them to be attractive customers. One way that the government can help to offset this issue is by offering tax breaks or other incentives for supermarkets in low-income areas. In 2010, the Obama administration implemented the Healthy Food Financing program, which is a set of initiatives designed to help bring grocery stores into areas currently designated as food deserts.

While this federal program is a commendable effort to improve low-income residents' access to healthy food, local initiatives often have a stronger and more immediate impact. Community gardens, independent food stores, co-ops, and farmers' markets are all examples of local initiatives that can substitute for or supplement the

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opening of a major chain supermarket. Despite the time, dedication, and funds required for community members to initiate such programs, these efforts can be incredibly beneficial, not only in providing people with access to healthier foods, but also in instilling a sense of community in the residents of these neighborhoods.

Adapted from Food Desert. Retrieved from http://englishck9.blogspot.my/2014/08/read-passages-10-01.html

a) Define "food deserts". **(1 mark)**

b) What will happen if supermarkets were located in more low-income areas? **(1 mark)**

c) Why do major food retailer chains refuse to build stores in low-income areas? **(1 mark)**

d) State TRUE or FALSE for the following statements: **(1 mark)**
i) Supermarkets are guiltier than fast food restaurants of contributing to the obesity epidemic among food desert society.
ii) The Healthy Food Financing programme failed to encourage supermarkets to open stores in low-income areas.

e) Why is the local initiatives a better way to solve the problem? **(1 mark)**

f) What is the main idea of the text? **(1 mark)**

SECTION B: GRAMMAR [10 MARKS]

Question 1: Transitions (5 MARKS)

Instructions: Fill in each blank with a suitable transition.

Example: (0) However, many conflict scholars do draw a distinction between the two terms.

Most people probably do not recognize a distinct difference between the terms "conflict" and "dispute." **(0) However**, many conflict scholars do draw a distinction between the two terms. Unfortunately different scholars define the terms in different ways, leading to confusion.

(a) _____ the confusion, one way that is particularly useful is the distinction made by John Burton which distinguishes the two based on time and issues in contention. Disputes, Burton suggests, are short-term disagreements that are relatively easy to resolve. Long-term, deep-rooted problems that involve seemingly non-negotiable issues and are resistant to resolution are what Burton refers to as *conflicts*. (b) _____ both types of disagreement can occur independently of one another, they may also be connected. In fact, one way to think about the difference between them is that short-term disputes may exist within a larger, longer conflict. A similar concept would be the notion of battles, which occur within the broader context of a war.

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Following Burton's distinction, disputes involve interests that are negotiable. That means, it is possible to find a solution that at least partially meets the interests and needs of both parties. (c)_____ it is generally possible to find an agreeable price for a piece of merchandise. The seller may want more, the buyer may want to pay less, but eventually they can agree on a price that is acceptable to both. (d) _____ co-workers may disagree about who is to do what task in an office. After negotiating, each worker may have to do something he did not want to do, but in exchange he will get enough of what he did want to settle the dispute.

On the other hand, long-term conflicts usually involve non-negotiable issues. They may involve deep-rooted moral or value differences, high-stakes distributional questions, or conflicts about who dominates whom. Fundamental human psychological needs for identity, security, and recognition are often an issue as well. None of these issues are negotiable. People will not compromise fundamental values. (e) _____ they will not give up their chance for a better life by submitting to continued injustice or domination, nor will they change or give up their self-identity.

Adapted from How to manage conflict (2015). Retrived from http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/conflicts-disputes. Retrieved 21 October 2015

Question 2: Modal Verbs (5 MARKS)

Instructions: Fill in each blank with a suitable modal verb.

Example: As a result, pinpointing the habits or lifestyle choices you make that affect your sleep **(0) can** help you identify what you need to work on or alter.

Fatigue and sleeplessness are often a direct result of lifestyle choices. As a result, pinpointing the habits or lifestyle choices you make that affect your sleep **(0) can** help you identify what you need to work on or alter. One suggestion doctors have is to keep a sleep diary in which you record the details of each instance of good and bad sleep. Sleep diaries generally include the date, what you ate that day, and the number of times you ate your meals, whether or not you exercised, the day's stresses, etc. While you (a) _____ not be able to completely change some lifestyle choices (such as work), you can take certain steps to improve your sleep once you know the causes.

Medication (b) _____ interfere with the body's natural rhythms, causing restlessness, insomnia and tiredness. Unfortunately, some turn to sleeping pills to try to get the rest they need. However, taken over long periods of time, sleeping pills lose their effectiveness and also interfere with the body's natural rest patterns. Consequently, if you have just started a new medication and find that it is negatively affecting your sleep, talk to your doctor about alternative medications you can take for your particular condition. While you (c) _____ experience a few restless nights as your body adjusts to new medicines, your sleep should not suffer a few weeks into a medication regimen.

Moreover, if the body is not properly rested, it cannot function in top shape. Every motion requires extra effort, which tires the body out even more. This (d) _____ add to fatigue – another effects of sleep deprivation. Some physical tasks may seem absolutely impossible to someone who is extremely fatigued. The body's defenses are lowered because it has to focus on staying awake. This leads the individual to be more susceptible to illness, and get sick for a longer period of time when an illness is contracted.

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Sleeping for only six hours cannot possibly make the body completely recover from such a demanding day and prepare for the next one. Since the effects of sleep deprivation can be quite harmful, one (e) _____ make an effort to take care of oneself.

Adapted from Fatigue,. (2008). Retrieved from : http://www.sleep-deprivation.com

SECTION C: WRITING [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Write a process essay of **not less than 350** words based on the information given below. You are advised to spend about 50 minutes on this question.

According to a recent survey, a large number of students take up part-time jobs in order to fund their higher education. However, once they get started, they just cannot seem to find the time to fit everything in. One main issue that arises when juggling academics with work is that there is always some "urgent" task at work which seems to take priority. Suggest steps on how to effectively juggle academics with a part-time job.

End of Paper